Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A method for the processing of data regarding the three-dimensional shape of a dental prosthesis, which has at least two prosthesis sections and at least one connector section, said connector section being connected to ~~the~~ at least two prosthesis sections and less stable than the two prosthesis sections, said process comprising the steps of ~~that~~:

[[-]] (a)   determining a stability parameter~~, such as circular cross-sectional area, minimal cross-sectional area, length of connector section, and/or minimal sectional modulus~~ and a stability criterion ~~are determined~~ for the connector section;

[[-]] (b)   calculating a value for the stability parameter~~, the actual value is calculated~~ from the data; and

[[-]] (c)   ~~it is~~ checking~~ed~~ ~~for~~ the connector section ~~as~~ to determine whether the ~~actual~~ calculated value fulfills the stability criterion, and if not, ~~that~~ generating a warning signal; ~~is generated,~~

   wherein the determination of the stability criterion is dependent on at least one prosthesis attribute selected from the group consisting of ~~of the following prosthesis attributes~~: the configuration of the prosthesis; ~~and/or~~ the position of the prosthesis inside the mouth; ~~and/or~~ the material ~~and/~~or the cross-sectional profile of the connector section; and ~~/or~~ the type of the prosthesis sections adjoining the connector section.

2.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~in which~~wherein the stability criterion includes a limit to which the ~~actual~~calculated value is compared.

3.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~in which~~wherein the minimal cross-sectional area of the connector section is one stability parameter and the stability criterion comprises a lower limit for it.

4.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_,~~in which~~wherein the length of the connector section is one stability parameter and the stability criterion comprises an upper limit for it.

5.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_,~~in which~~wherein the minimal section modulus of the connector section is one stability parameter and the stability criterion comprises a lower limit for it.

6.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_, in which the stability parameter is determined by means of the finite elements method ~~and/~~or the boundary element method.

7.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_,~~in which~~wherein the calculation of the ~~actual~~calculated value is started conforming to a given specification.

8.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_,~~in which~~wherein the calculation of the ~~actual~~ calculated value is started according to a given time plan.

9.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_,~~in which~~wherein the shape data ~~can be~~is modified and the calculation of the ~~actual~~calculated value is started ~~as soon as~~when the data ~~have or were~~are modified.

10.   (cancelled)

11.   (currently amended) The method~~Process~~ according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]]_1_,~~in which~~wherein said method is performed by means of a computer program.

12.   (currently amended) <u>A</u> Ðdata processing device for performing the ~~process~~<u>method</u> according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] <u>1</u>, ~~with~~<u>said data processing device comprising</u>:

[[-]] <u>(a)</u>   An input device for the data;

[[-]] <u>(b)</u>   a central unit connected to the input device, ~~in which~~<u>wherein said central unit runs</u> a program ~~runs~~ for the processing of the data according to the ~~process~~<u>method of claim 1; and</u>

[[-]] <u>(c)</u>   an output device for the warning signal[[,]] connected to the central unit.

13.   (currently amended) <u>The</u> Ðdata processing device according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] <u>12</u>, ~~in which~~<u>wherein</u> an input device for changing the data and an output device for displaying the data are connected to the central unit.

14.   (currently amended) <u>A</u> Ccomputer program ~~which is~~ adapted to perform the process according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] <u>1</u>.

15.   (currently amended) <u>A</u> Ccomputer program which, when it is run in a computer, performs the process according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] <u>1</u>.

16.   (currently amended) <u>A</u> Ccomputer program comprising commands that perform the process according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] <u>1</u>.

17.   (currently amended) <u>A</u> Ccomputer program which implements the process according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] <u>1</u>.

18.   (currently amended) <u>A</u> Ðdata carrier on which a computer program according to ~~one of the preceding~~ <u>any of</u> claims 14-17 is stored.